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*Thousands of lorry drivers around the world are on strike in protest at rising fuel prices. Protests are taking place in Spain, Malaysia, South Korea, Argentina and the United Kingdom. This report from Jane Warr:*

In Spain, about 75,000 lorry drivers have been on strike since Sunday night and more than 70 have been arrested. The Spanish government has promised **zero tolerance for any violence** by the drivers, following a series of incidents which included an attack on a trucker who **broke the strike**. That attack left him with 25% burns to his body.

In Malaysia, **security has been stepped up** in the capital Kuala Lumpur for a rally the opposition hopes will bring more than 20,000 people onto the streets. Oil prices have risen by about 40% since the start of the year to **an all-time high** of more than a \$139.

Truck drivers are also on strike in South Korea, **affecting operations** at major ports. They're demanding cuts in energy costs or an increase in transport fees as a result of a more than 30% increase in the price of diesel since the beginning of the year.

In Britain, fuel supplies to around 900 Shell petrol stations across the country stopped early on Friday because of a strike by **tanker** drivers employed by two **haulage** companies. The drivers have also **set up picket lines** outside a number of oil terminals.

And in Argentina, truck drivers are protesting against a protest. They say demonstrations by farmers are preventing them from working. The farmers have been blocking roads for the past three months in **a dispute** with the government over **export taxes**.

Jane Warr, BBC

## Vocabulary and definitions

<b>zero tolerance for any violence</b>	when any use of physical force to injure somebody or damage something, even if not very serious, is treated as unacceptable and punished severely
<b>broke the strike</b>	continued to work despite the fact that most drivers have refused to work as a protest (here, against rising fuel prices)
<b>security has been stepped up</b>	more precautions have been taken (to keep somebody or something safe from attack or danger)
<b>an all-time high</b>	the highest they have ever been
<b>affecting operations</b>	here, stopping the ports from working normally
<b>tanker</b>	here, a vehicle built to carry liquid or gas
<b>haulage</b>	the business of moving goods by road or railway
<b>set up picket lines</b>	when people, such as striking workers, show their protest by standing in lines outside buildings to try to prevent other workers from going inside
<b>a dispute</b>	here, a prolonged disagreement between the government and workers involving a strike
<b>export taxes</b>	taxes that must be paid when selling goods abroad

More on this story: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7450120.stm>

Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2008/06/080613\\_truckers.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2008/06/080613_truckers.shtml)